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Lucas et al.

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(54) **DEVICE FOR SIMULTANEOUS CONSUMPTION OF A FLUID AND A FROZEN SUBSTANCE**

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Related U.S. Application Data

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(51) **Int. Cl.**

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A23G 9/08	(2006.01)
A23G 9/28	(2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ***A23G 9/221*** (2013.01); ***A23G 9/083*** (2013.01); ***A23G 9/22*** (2013.01); ***A23G 9/28*** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC A23G 3/563; A23G 3/50; A23G 9/221; A23G 9/44; A23G 9/503; A23G 9/083

USPC 426/134, 515, 103, 393, 421, 284, 592; 249/63; 425/256

See application file for complete search history.

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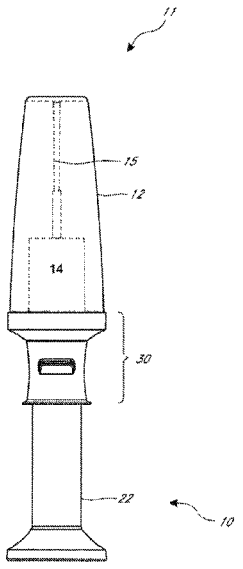
(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present disclosure relates to a device for molding a freezable substance and dispensing a stored fluid substance. More specifically, the present disclosure relates to a device that, when assembled, creates a Popsicle®-like frozen confection having a container containing an alcoholic liquid, where the user employs a plunger to drive the alcoholic liquid upward through a lumen in the frozen confection so that the user may simultaneously consume the frozen confection and ingest the alcoholic liquid. The device is a four-piece assembly. The first member is a handle with a plunger disposed at one end. The second member is a flange and a container extending from the flange and receiving at a first end of the container the plunger, the container defining an inner volume to receive and store a fluid substance. The end of the container generally opposite the end receiving the plunger has an orifice. The third member interacts with the second member at the flange. Finally, the fourth member interacts with the orifice of the container.

20 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets



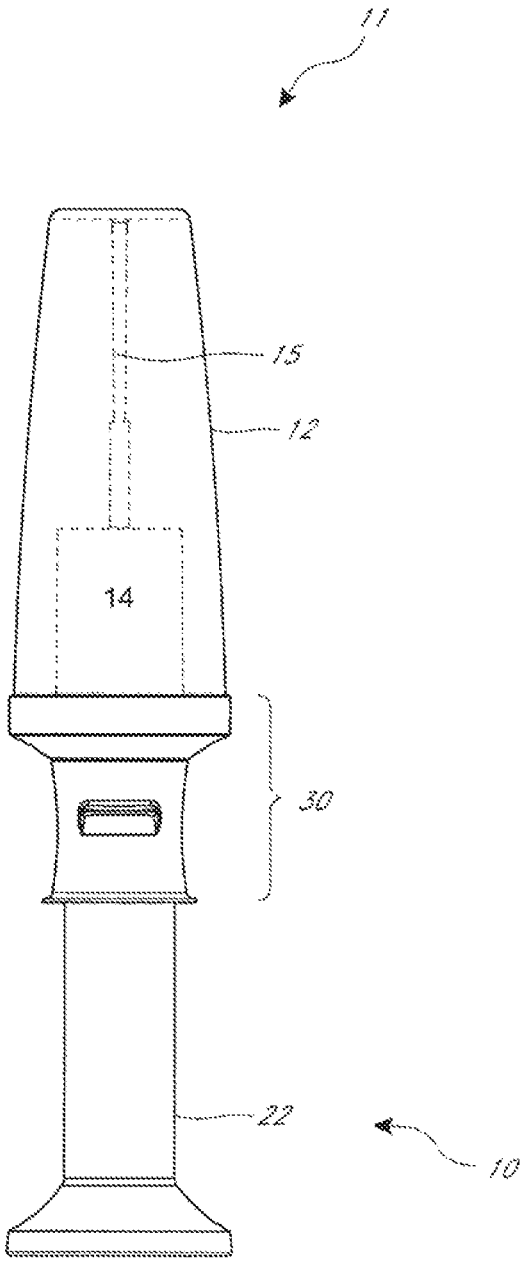


FIG. 1

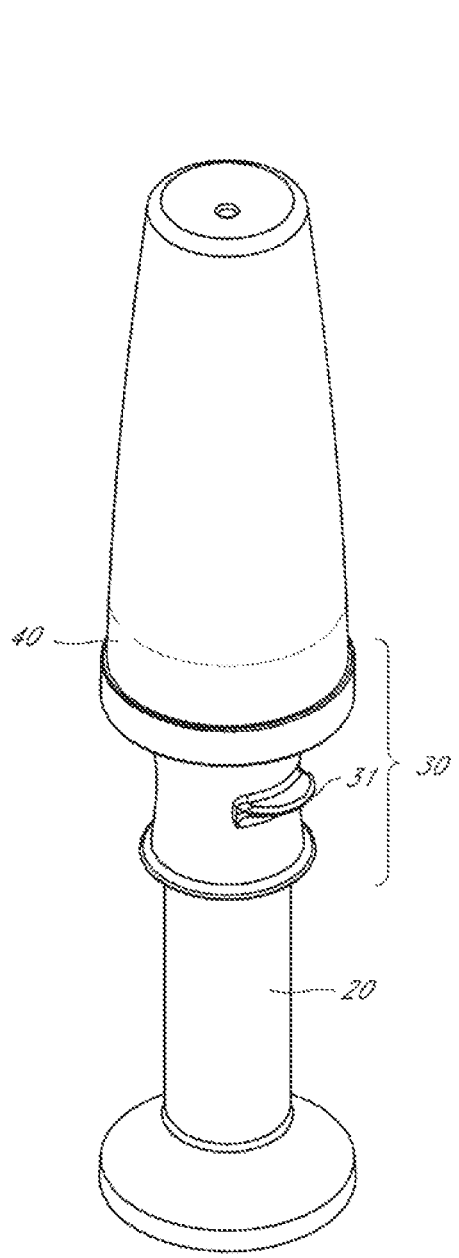


FIG. 2

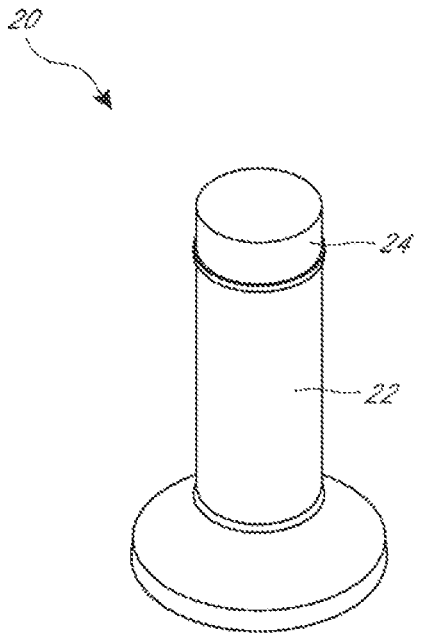


FIG. 3

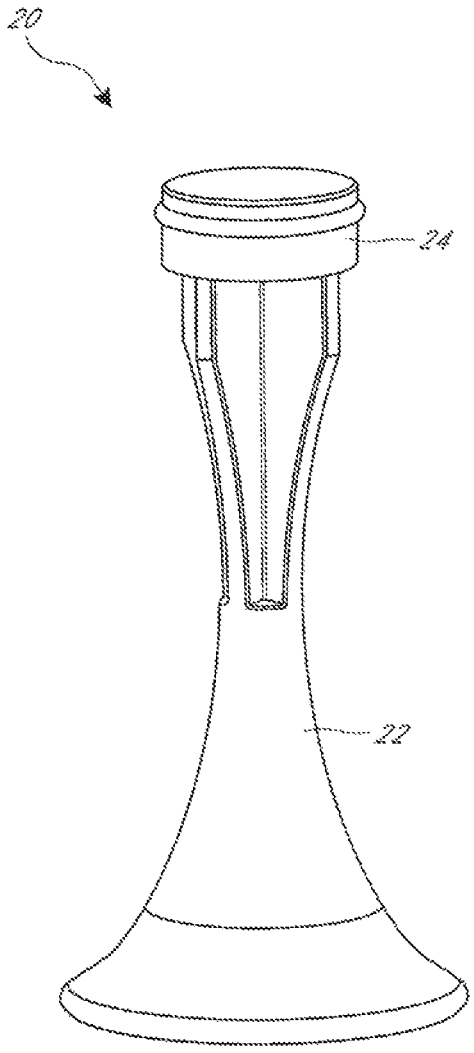


FIG. 4

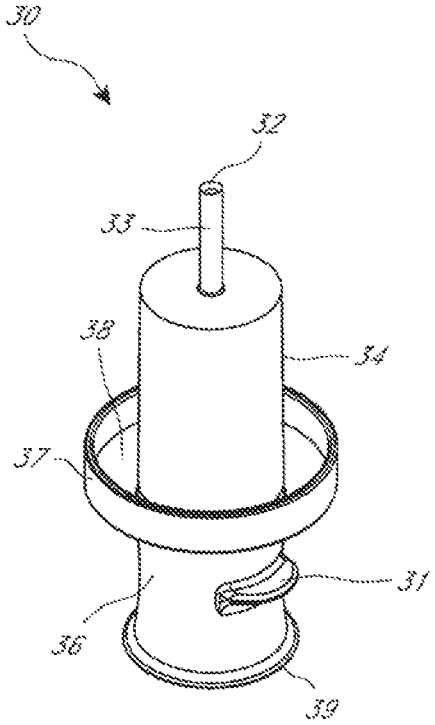


FIG. 5

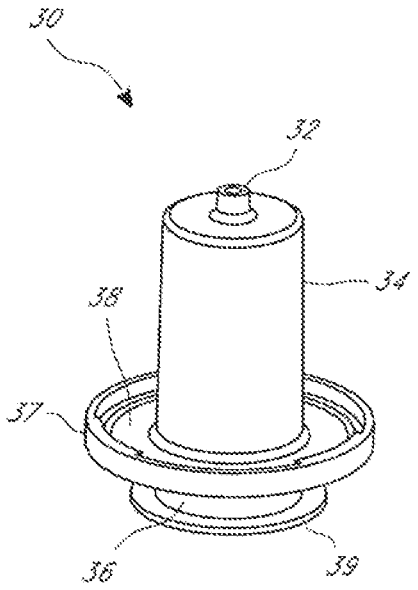


FIG. 6

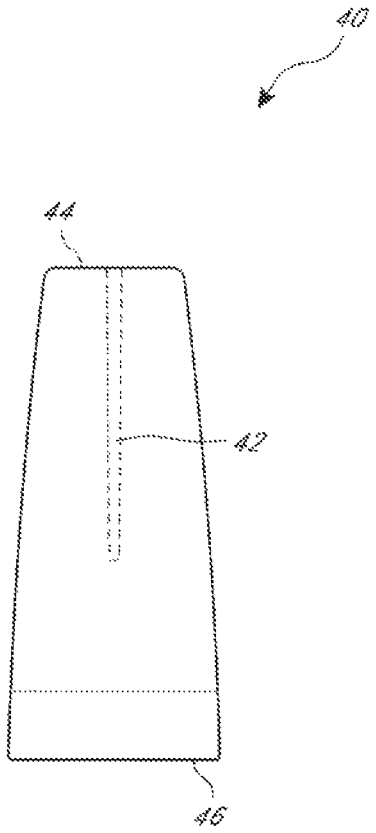


FIG. 7

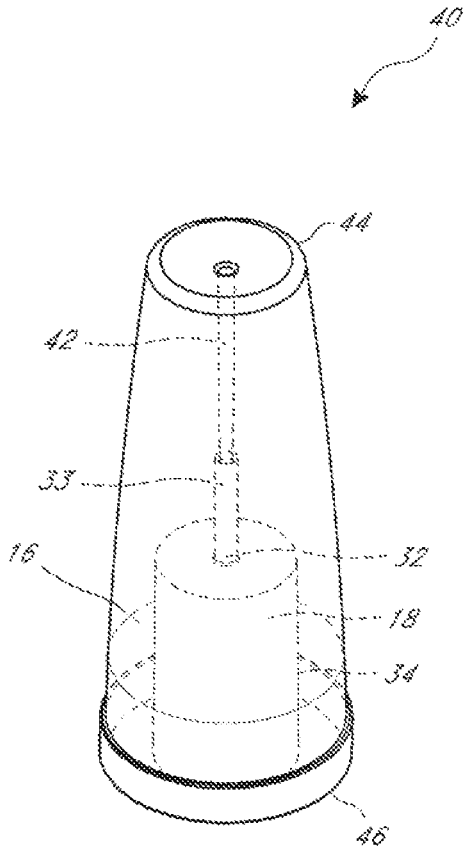


FIG. 8

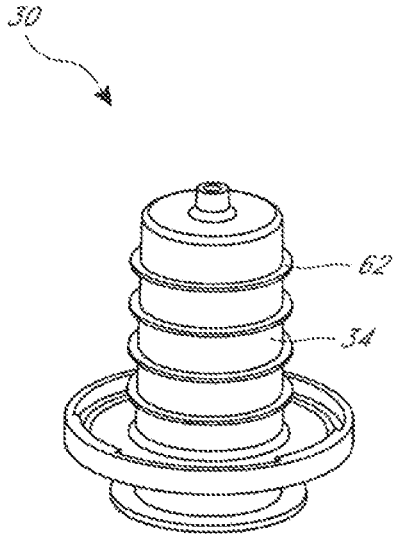


FIG. 9

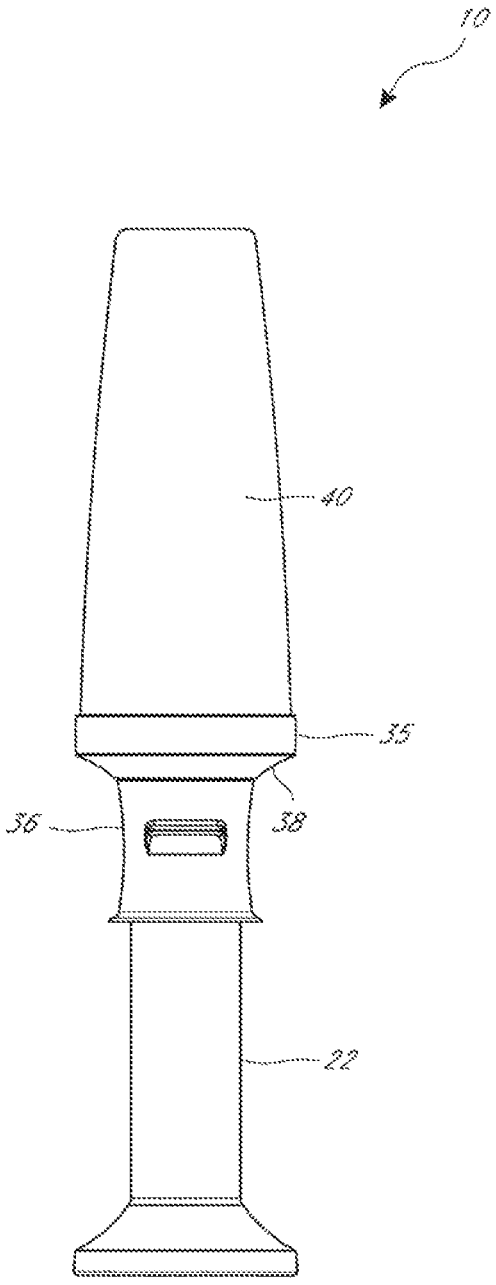


FIG. 10

DEVICE FOR SIMULTANEOUS CONSUMPTION OF A FLUID AND A FROZEN SUBSTANCE

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/844,982 filed on Jul. 11, 2013, and to U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/977,785 filed on Apr. 10, 2014, both of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

BACKGROUND

1. Field of the Invention

The present disclosure relates generally to a frozen confection or frozen beverage device. More specifically, the present disclosure relates to a device for forming a frozen confection that allows for simultaneous consumption of the frozen confection and a user-controlled quantity of fluid, such as alcohol.

2. Description of Related Art

People desire cool refreshments, especially during the hot summer months. Frozen confections, such as ice pops and Popsicles®, are well-known and popular summertime refreshments for people of all ages. A great variety of frozen confection products, having different colors, flavors, textures, fat content, and caloric content, are widely available. In addition to frozen confections, frozen cocktails are well-known and popular summertime refreshments enjoyed by adults. Frozen cocktails are popular in part because they are cold and also because they are alcoholic.

Freezing alcoholic beverages is problematic due to the low freezing point of ethyl alcohol (the alcohol in alcoholic beverages), which is approximately −173° F. under ambient conditions. The freezing point of alcoholic beverages is between the freezing points of water (32° F.) and alcohol (−173° F.), and depends on the beverage's alcohol content. Therefore, it is difficult to freeze alcoholic beverages and confections having higher alcohol content. As such, completely frozen confections such as ice pops and Popsicles® generally do not contain alcohol.

Because of the low freezing point of alcohol, popular frozen cocktails such as margaritas, piña coladas, and daiquiris are far from completely frozen when served. Instead, "frozen" cocktails are served as a slush with ice crystals suspended in the liquid. If the frozen cocktail is not quickly consumed, the ice crystals melt causing the cocktail to have a less desirable texture and temperature.

In addition to frozen cocktails, it is known to mix alcohol with gelatin to produce food products commonly referred to as Jello® shots and pudding shots. For instance, one type of product mixes vodka, or other alcoholic beverage, with a prepared gelatin before the gelatin solidifies or hardens. The gelatin is then chilled and hardens with the alcoholic beverage contained therein. Although these alcoholic gelatin products provide an alternative to frozen cocktails, they too are not completely frozen and therefore not as refreshing as completely frozen refreshments.

In view of the foregoing, there remains a need in the art for a device that allows for simultaneous consumption of the frozen confection and an alcoholic beverage. The present disclosure addresses this particular need, as discussed in detail below.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present disclosure relates to a device for molding a freezable substance and dispensing a stored fluid. More specifically, the present disclosure relates to a device that, when assembled, creates a Popsicle®-like frozen confection having a container holding an alcoholic liquid. The user employs a plunger to drive the alcoholic liquid (or other consumable fluid or flowable substance that has a lower freezing point than that of the frozen confection) upward through one or more lumens or passageways in the frozen confection. Thus, the device allows for an alcoholic liquid and a frozen substance to be ingested simultaneously while being contained separately within a single vessel. The device further allows the user to control the amount of alcohol ingested, and thus the flavor of the product. Using the plunger, the user may shoot alcohol from the device, drizzle the alcohol over the frozen confection, or refrain from ingesting any alcohol at all.

In one embodiment, the device is a four-piece assembly. The first member is a handle with a plunger disposed at one end of the handle. The second member is a flange and a container extending from the flange and receiving at a first end of the container the plunger, the container defining an inner volume to receive and store a fluid substance (which preferably remains dispensable or flowable at temperatures below the freezing point of water). The end of the container generally opposite the end receiving the plunger has an orifice. The third member interacts with the second member at the flange. Finally, the fourth member interacts with the orifice of the container on one end. The fourth member can also interact with the third member. The second, third, and fourth members define a mold cavity for receiving a freezable substance (e.g., a water-based substance that freezes at or around the freezing point of water).

In another embodiment, the device permits molding a freezable substance so that the frozen substance has one or more lumens or pathways through which a fluid or flowable substance (preferably with a lower freezing point than that of the frozen substance) may pass or reside. This device comprises a hollow tubular or cup-like mold. In a preferred embodiment, the mold has an end open to receive a freezable substance and a closed opposing end. Disposed within the mold are one or more shafts, plugs, projections, or mandrels that extend inward from an inner surface of the mold to define the pathways in the frozen substance—for example, from the closed end of the mold toward the open end of the mold. The mold and the projections in some forms are unitary and in other forms are separable. Additionally, the mold can comprise a unitary body or can be formed of two or more pieces.

The present disclosure also relates to a method of forming a food item having a fluid portion and a molded portion comprised of a frozen substance. The fluid portion has a lower freezing point than that of the frozen substance. The method comprises providing a device having a mold cavity and a container. The mold cavity is filled with a freezable substance and sealed. The container is filled with the fluid portion and sealed. In this method, the mold cavity may have an elongated cylindrical shape. Further, the device may include a plunger that inserts into the container. Further, the container may be concentrically disposed within the mold cavity with the device is fully assembled.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** depicts a side view of an exemplary device with the third member removed to expose the frozen confection, in accordance with exemplary embodiments of the invention.

FIG. **2** depicts a top perspective side view of an exemplary device fully assembled, in accordance with exemplary embodiments of the invention.

FIG. **3** depicts a top perspective side view of an exemplary first member, in accordance with exemplary embodiments of the invention.

FIG. **4** depicts a side view of another exemplary first member, in accordance with exemplary embodiments of the invention.

FIG. **5** depicts a side view of an exemplary second member, in accordance with exemplary embodiments of the invention.

FIG. **6** depicts a side view of another exemplary second member, in accordance with exemplary embodiments of the invention.

FIG. **7** depicts a side view of an exemplary third member, in accordance with exemplary embodiments of the invention.

FIG. **8** depicts a side view of an exemplary third member and its internal structure, in accordance with exemplary embodiments of the invention.

FIG. **9** depicts a side view of another exemplary second member with rings to prevent the frozen confection from slipping, in accordance with exemplary embodiments of the invention.

FIG. **10** depicts a side view of an exemplary device fully assembled, in accordance with exemplary embodiments of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present disclosure relates to a device for molding a freezable substance and dispensing a stored fluid substance. More specifically, the present disclosure relates to a device that, when assembled, creates a Popsicle®-like frozen confection having a container holding an alcoholic liquid. The user employs a plunger to drive the alcoholic liquid upward through a lumen in the frozen confection so that the user may simultaneously consume the frozen confection and ingest the alcoholic beverage. Thus, the device allows for an alcoholic liquid and a frozen substance to be ingested simultaneously while being contained separately within a single vessel. The device further allows the user to control the amount of alcohol ingested, and thus the flavor of the product. Using the plunger, the user may shoot alcohol from the device, drizzle the alcohol over the frozen confection, or refrain from ingesting any alcohol at all.

The drawings are for purposes of illustrating a preferred embodiment of the present disclosure, and not for purposes of limiting the same. Turning now to the drawings, as shown in FIGS. **1-10**, there is provided a device **10** for preparing, storing, and serving a chilled item having an outer portion comprised of a freezable confection **12** and an inner portion comprised of a fluid **14**, preferably an alcoholic beverage. In this regard, the device **10** is configured to allow a person to simultaneously consume a frozen confection **12** and a fluid **14**.

More specifically, as shown in FIGS. **1** and **8**, the device **10** includes a mold cavity **16** for receiving and storing the freezable confection **12**, and an internal cavity **18** for receiving and storing the fluid **14**. The device **10** allows the user to push upward on a handle **22** to displace the fluid **14** from an orifice **32** in the top of a container **34** and through a lumen **15** in the frozen confection **12** and out the top of the frozen confection **12**. Thus, the mold cavity **16** and the internal cavity **18** are configured to allow a person to consume simultaneously the frozen confection **12** and the fluid **14**. The design and operation of the device **10** is similar to the design and operation of a syringe.

In some embodiments, the device **10** may be comprised of four members. As shown in FIG. **3**, a first member **20** is akin to the plunger of a syringe. The first member **20** is comprised of a handle **22** and a plunger **24** that is disposed at the end of the handle **22**. As shown in FIGS. **3** and **5**, a second member **30** (akin to the barrel of a syringe) includes a flange **36** and a container **34** extending from the flange sized to receive the plunger **24** of the first member **20**. The top of the container **34** has an orifice **32** and plug receiver **33** through which the fluid may pass. As shown in FIGS. **5** and **7**, a third member **40** interacts with the second member **30** at the flange **36** and the plug receiver **33** at the top of the container **34** to collectively define a mold cavity **16** for molding a freezable substance. The third member **40** may be comprised of two separate members—a member that interacts with the second member **30** at the flange **36**, and a fourth member that interacts with the plug receiver **33**, or these third and fourth members may be integrally formed.

As described in detail below, the second and third members **30**, **40** are disposed in the assembled configuration to collectively form the mold cavity **16** within which the freezable confection **12** may be poured, stored, and frozen. Further, the first, second, and third members **20**, **30**, **40** are disposed in the assembled configuration to collectively form the internal cavity **18** within which the fluid **14** may be poured, stored, and chilled. When the user desires to consume the frozen confection **12** and the fluid **14**, the third member **40** is twisted and removed from the second member **30** to expose the frozen confection **12** and to access to the fluid **14**, yielding the consumable product **11** shown in FIG. **1**.

With reference now to FIGS. **1** and **8**, it is contemplated that the internal cavity **18** may be pre-filled with a fluid **14** and the mold cavity **16** may be pre-filled with a freezable confection **12** at a manufacturing facility. The device **10** may be transported and stocked at room temperature for an extended shelf life. After the device **10** is purchased by the vendor or consumer, the device **10** may be chilled prior to consumption to freeze the confection **12** and to chill the fluid **14**.

As shown in FIG. **3**, the first member **20** includes a handle **22** with a plunger **24** disposed at one end. The first member **20** functions like the plunger of a syringe. The plunger **24** defines a cylindrical shape. In preferred embodiments, the handle **22** also defines a cylindrical shape, wherein the circumference of the handle **22** is approximately equivalent to the circumference of the plunger, as depicted in FIG. **3**. Such a design is advantageous because it prevents the first member **20** from slipping when inserted into the second member **30**, thereby preventing the plunger **24** from becoming disengaged from the inner wall of the container **34**, which would result in fluid **14** leaking out of the container **34**.

In an alternative embodiment, as depicted in FIG. **4**, the handle **22** defines a generally cylindrical shape where the circumference of the cylinder is smaller in the center of the handle **22** and gradually increases toward both ends of the handle. Furthermore, the handle **22** defines an ergonomic configuration with indents which are complimentary to a user's hand. The handle **22** is configured to facilitate clutching or gripping of the device by the user. As such, the handle **22** extends downward from the second member **30** shown in FIG. **5** to define a length that is suitable to enable a user to grip or clutch the device via the handle **22**. The shape of the handle **22** is exemplary in nature only, and those skilled in the art will appreciate that other configurations may be used without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

The plunger member **24** is configured to be removably inserted within the container **34** of the second member **30**, as shown in FIG. **5**. The second member **30** functions like the barrel of a syringe. In this regard, the container **34** includes an inner wall sized to receive the plunger **24** and handle **22**. Furthermore, the plunger **24** and handle **22** may define an

outer wall that is complimentary in size and shape to the inner wall of the container **34** to enable insertion of the plunger **24** and handle **22** through the container **34**.

The plunger cap **24** may be formed of any material commonly used in syringes (i.e., rubber). The plunger material must have properties that allow the plunger to slide easily along the inner wall of the container **34**, and that provide a sufficiently secure engagement so as to contain the fluid within the container **34**.

A hollowed-out portion of the inner wall of the container **34**, sized to receive and capture the plunger **24**, forms a ring extending radially outward from the inner wall of the container. If the user attempts to pull the first member **20** out of the second member **30** when the device **10** is fully assembled, the hollowed-out portion captures the plunger **24** because the plunger expands upon entering the hollowed-out portion. Thus, the hollowed-out portion prevents the plunger **24** from being easily or inadvertently removed from the container **34**, thereby resulting in fewer spillages of the fluid **14**. In alternative embodiments, a ring extends radially inward from the inner wall of the container, also preventing the plunger **24** from being easily or inadvertently removed from the container **34**.

As shown in FIG. **5**, the container **34** receives the plunger **24** at one end thereof and has an orifice **32** at the generally opposite end thereof, the orifice **32** having a circumference smaller than that of the container **34**. The orifice **32** may be directly opposite the side of the container receiving the plunger, or it may be located toward the end of the container not receiving the plunger. The orifice should be positioned such that at least half of the volume of the container is displaced before the plunger is adjacent to the orifice. Alternatively, the orifice should be positioned such that at least 75% of the volume of the container is displaced before the plunger is adjacent to the orifice. Alternatively, the orifice should be positioned such that at least 90% of the volume of the container is displaced before the plunger is adjacent to the orifice. Preferably, the orifice should be positioned such that all of the volume of the container is displaced before the plunger is adjacent to the orifice. The container **34** extends from the orifice **32** in a first direction and a plug receiver **33** extends from the orifice **32** in an opposing second direction. The internal cavity **18** depicted in FIG. **8** is collectively defined by the container **34**, the plunger **24**, and a solid cylindrical shaft **42** that plugs into the orifice **32** of the container **34** through the plug receiver **33**. A plug receiver is advantageous because it provides a better seal between the second and third members, because it allows for easier assembly, and because it prevents pooling of the fluid **14** on top of the container when the device is used and thereby prevents unwanted melting of the frozen substance.

As shown in FIG. **8**, the volume of the internal cavity **18** correlates to the amount of fluid capable of being dispensed by the device. In preferred embodiments, the internal cavity **18** defines a volume of 25 ml. In other embodiments, the internal cavity **18** defines a volume of at least 100 ml. In others embodiments, the internal cavity **18** may define a volume ranging from 1 ml to 25 ml. In others embodiments, the internal cavity **18** may define a volume ranging from 25 ml to 50 ml. In others embodiments, the internal cavity **18** may define a volume ranging from 50 ml to 75 ml. In others embodiments, the internal cavity **18** may define a volume ranging from 75 ml to 100 ml.

In preferred embodiments, the mold cavity **16** defines a volume of 75 ml. In other embodiments, the mold cavity **16** defines a volume of at least 300 ml. In other embodiments, the mold cavity **16** may define a volume ranging from 25 ml to 75 ml. In other embodiments, the mold cavity **16** may define a volume ranging from 75 ml to 125 ml. In other embodiments, the mold cavity **16** may define a volume ranging from 125 ml to 175 ml. In other embodiments, the mold cavity **16** may define a volume ranging from 175 ml to 300 ml.

In preferred embodiments, the outer surface of the container **34** may define an irregular, or roughened surface for mitigating inadvertent sliding of the confection **12** along the container **34**. Alternatively, as shown in FIG. **5**, the outer surface of the container **34** is smooth. A smooth outer surface can be advantageous because it enables the container to be easily removed from a mold during the manufacturing process. FIG. **9** shows a container **34** having series of rings **62** disposed in spaced relation to each other along the length of the container **34**. The rings **62** extend radially outward into the frozen confection to mitigate inadvertent sliding of the confection along the container **34**. Although rings **62** are shown in FIG. **9**, it is contemplated that the outer surface of the container **34** may be roughened to mitigate sliding of the confection along the container **34**. Another embodiment of the container **34** may have a plurality of nodules disposed on the outer surface of the container **34** to mitigate inadvertent sliding of the confection **12** along the container **34**. The nodules may be semi-spherical and may be evenly spaced along the container **34**. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the nodules may define other shapes, and may be irregularly spaced along the container **34**.

The second member **30**, as shown in FIG. **5**, includes a flange **36** integrally formed to a container. Referring now to FIGS. **2** and **10**, when the first member **20** is inserted into the second member **30** in the assembled configuration, the container **34** extends from the flange **36** in a first direction and the first member **20** extends from the flange **36** in an opposing second direction. The flange **36** defines a circular disc shape having an outer diameter that is larger than that of the handle **22** and the container **34**.

In some embodiments, a cylindrical ring **38** extends radially outward from the flange **36** to define a radial edge. The cylindrical ring **38** circumnavigates the container **34**. The cylindrical ring **38** is configured to engage with the third member **40**, as described in detail below. The container is concentrically disposed relative to the third member when the third member is connected to the second member.

The flange **36** may include an outer edge **37** circumnavigating the cylindrical ring **38** and extending from the cylindrical ring adjacent the radial edge. The outer edge **37** and the cylinder ring **38** collectively define a drip guard useful for catching the frozen confection **12** as it melts. Alternatively, the flange **36** may include an outer edge **35** circumnavigating the cylindrical ring **38** that flares radially outward. This embodiment is advantageous if the user desires to drink the melted remains of the frozen confection **12** from the drip guard.

Some embodiments of the flange **36** may be configured to allow a user to easily and securely hold the second member **30** stationary while driving the first member upward through the container **34** so as to displace the fluid from the container through the lumen and into a person's mouth. In preferred embodiments, as shown in FIG. **2**, a tab **31** extends radially outward from the outer wall of the flange, sized such that a user can place a finger on the tab **31** to prevent the second member **20** from moving while the user presses the first member **20** upward. In other embodiments, such as that depicted in FIG. **6**, the flange **36** may include a grip ring **39** circumnavigating the flange and extending radially outward from the flange to define a second radial edge. The user may

then hold the flange **36** in the indented portion between the grip ring **39** and the cylindrical ring **38**.

As shown in FIG. **5**, the flange **36** defines a flange length between the two ends of the flange's shaft. In some embodiments, the flange length measures between ¼ inch and ¾ inch. In other embodiments, the flange length measures between ¾ inch and 1¼ inches. In other embodiments, the flange length measures between 1¼ inches and 2 inches.

As shown in FIG. **7**, the third member **40** has an enclosed end **44** and an opposing open end **46**. The third member **40** is hollow to define an opening extending axially from the open end **46** to the closed end **44**. In the embodiment depicted in FIG. **7**, the third member **40** defines a tubular cross-section in a direction perpendicular to its longitudinal axis, wherein the third member **40** is tapered such that the diameter adjacent the enclosed end **44** is smaller than the diameter adjacent the opposing open end **46**. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the third member **40** may define a cross-section that is uniform along its length (i.e., not tapered), or other shapes (i.e., quadrangular, triangular, etc.) without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. As one example, the third member **40** may be a flared cylinder wherein the closed end diameter is 65% to 95% of the open end diameter.

The third member **40** defines a third member length from the open end **46** to the opposing enclosed end **44**. The container **34** defines a container length from its end receiving the plug to the orifice **32**, wherein the container length is less than the third member length. The container **34** may extend to various lengths. For example, the container length may extend between 10% and 25% of the third member length. Alternatively, the container length may extend between 25% and 50% of the third member length.

As shown in FIG. **8**, disposed within the mold cavity **16** of the third member **40** is a shaft **42** extending from the center of the closed end **44** of the third member **40** toward the open end **46** of the third member. The shaft interacts with the second member. The shaft **42** is configured to be removably inserted through the plug receiver **33** and the orifice **32**, such that the shaft extends partially into the container **34**. In this regard, the orifice **32** and the plug receiver **33** have inner walls sized to receive the shaft **42**. Furthermore, the shaft **42** may define an outer wall that is complimentary in size and shape to the inner walls of the orifice **32** and the plug receiver **33** to enable insertion of the shaft **42** through the orifice **32**. In preferred embodiments, the shaft **42** is solid and has a generally cylindrical shape, with a circumference that decreases gradually towards the open end of the third member **30**, such that the solid shaft **42** snuggly fits into the plug receiver **33** and forms a barrier between the fluid and the frozen substance.

In preferred embodiments, the solid shaft **42** extends partially into the internal cavity **18**. Such an embodiment is advantageous in the event that the frozen substance inadvertently enters the plug receiver **33** or the internal cavity **18**, where the extension of the solid shaft **42** into the internal cavity **18** prevents a blockage of the lumen **15** when the device **10** is frozen.

In alternative embodiments as depicted by FIG. **6**, there may be no plug receiver. Also, the solid shaft **42** may be cylindrical. Along these lines, the solid shaft **42** of the third member **40** and the orifice **34** of the second member **30** may be configured to cooperatively engage via press-fit/frictional engagement to secure the solid cylindrical shaft **42** to the second member **30**. The engagement is secure enough to contain the fluid within the container **34**.

With reference to FIGS. **2** and **8**, the third member **40** interacts with the second member **30** to collectively define the mold cavity **16**. More specifically, the mold cavity **16** is defined by the inner wall of the third member **40**, the outer wall of the container **34**, the cylindrical ring **38** (shown in FIG. **5**), and the solid shaft **42**. Before the device **10** is assembled, a first substance, such as a freezable confection, is poured or otherwise disposed within the mold cavity **16** to mold the first substance therein. Referring now to FIG. **1**, after the device **10** is assembled and frozen, the third member **40** is removed from the second member **30**, and a lumen **15** remains where the solid shaft **42** existed. It is contemplated that the third member **40** may have more than one shaft extending from its closed end to plug more than one orifice **32**, such that when the user removes the third member **40**, multiple lumens remain. The solid shaft **42** of the third member bears an advantage over prior art including a straw-like structure extending from a reservoir upward through a frozen substance—here, a lumen **15** replaces the straw-like structure, and the user is able to consume the frozen substance without having the straw-like structure inhibit the licking or sucking of the frozen substance as the frozen substance dissipates.

The second and third members **30**, **40** interact with each other when the device is assembled. The second and third members **30**, **40** may include structural features to facilitate engagement between the second member **30** and the third member **40**. In the embodiment depicted in FIGS. **2** and **5**, the third member **40** engages with the cylindrical ring **38** and the outer edge **37** when the third member **40** is coupled to the second member **30**. Along these lines, the open end **46** of the third member **40** and the outer edge **37** of the second member **30** may be configured to cooperatively engage via a screw cap engagement to secure the third member **40** to the second member **30**. Alternatively, the open end **46** of the third member **40** and the cylindrical ring **38** of the second member **30** may be configured to cooperatively engage via press-fit/frictional engagement to secure the third member **40** to the second member **30**. An o-ring formed of a soft plastic may be disposed on the upward-facing side of the cylindrical ring **38**, allowing for a more secure engagement between the second member **30** and the third member **40**. The engagement is secure enough to contain the freezable confection within the mold cavity **16** when the confection is in liquid form.

Although the foregoing describes a cylindrical ring **38** to facilitate engagement between the second and third members **30**, **40**, it is contemplated that other engagement techniques may also be employed. For instance, the flange **36** may define a groove into which the open end **46** of the third member **40** may be inserted to engage the second member **30** to the third member **40**.

In some embodiments, the second member **30** is formed from a unitary body, as shown in FIG. **5**. In other words, the flange **36** and container **34** comprise a single unit. Other embodiments may include a second member **30** formed from a plurality of elements. More specifically, the second member **30** may include a container **34** that is configured to be removably inserted within the flange **36** to define a nested configuration. In this regard, the flange **36** includes an inner wall sized to receive the container **34**. Furthermore, the container **34** may define an outer wall that is complimentary in shape and size to the inner wall of the flange **36** to enable insertion and nesting of the container **34** within the flange **36**. The detachable configuration of the container **34** and flange **36** may advantageously allow for refilling of the container **34** with the fluid during use of the device **10**. In other words, the container **34** and first member **20** may be removed from the flange **36** to refill the internal cavity **18** through the orifice **32** at a location spaced from the flange **36** to mitigate inadvertent spilling of the fluid **14** onto the confection **12** during the refilling process.

The first, second, and third members **20**, **30**, **40**, are preferably formed of a material that can withstand the freezing temperatures that are necessary to freeze the freezable confection. Furthermore, the first, second, and third members are preferably formed of a material that can withstand any expansion or contraction of the confection as it is frozen or heated. Along these lines, it may be preferable to not completely fill the mold cavity **16** with the freezable confection to allow for expansion of the confection during the freezing process.

In some embodiments, LED lights may be incorporated into either the first member **20** or the second member **30**. LED lights are advantageous because they allow the user to light up the device **10** when using the device in a dark setting, such as the outdoors at night or indoors in a dimly lit nightclub or restaurant.

Assembly of the device **10** entails the following steps. First, the freezable confection **12** is disposed within the mold cavity **16** through the open end **46** of the third member **40**. It is contemplated that the freezable confection **12** may include fruit juices, alcoholic mixers, flavored water, or other freezable confections known in the art. Furthermore, although the majority of the alcoholic beverage is disposed within the container **34**, a small amount of the alcoholic beverage may also be mixed with the freezable confection **12**, so long as the alcohol does not prevent the confection **12** from freezing (i.e., a small amount of an alcoholic beverage may not prevent the confection **12** from freezing).

Second, the second member **30** is secured to the third member **40**, such that the freezable liquid is contained in the mold cavity **16** in a spill-proof manner. Third, the fluid **14** is disposed within the container **34**. The fluid **14** may be vodka, rum, tequila, or other alcoholic beverages, as well as non-alcoholic beverages. The fluid **14** also may be any fluid edible product that is not a beverage, such as syrup, sauce, spherical sugar candies, and the like. Fourth, the plunger **24** of the first member **20** is inserted into the container **34**, such that the fluid **14** is contained in the internal cavity **18** in a spill-proof manner. The device **10** is then placed within a freezer to freeze the confection **12** and chill the fluid **14**.

To consume the confection **12** and the fluid **14**, the device **10** is removed from the freezer and the third member **40** is twisted and removed from engagement with the second member **30** to expose the frozen confection **12**, as shown in FIG. **1**. To consume the frozen confection **12**, the user may lick on the frozen confection as he would lick a Popsicle®. To consume the fluid **14**, the user may push the first member **20** upward while holding the second member **30** stationary, displacing the fluid **14** from the internal cavity **18** into the lumen **15** within the frozen confection **12** and then into the user's mouth while the user simultaneously sucks on the frozen confection **12**. Alternatively, the user may ingest the fluid **14** without pushing upward on the first member **20** by sucking on the frozen confection **12**, thereby creating a pressure drop that forces the fluid **14** through the lumen **15** and into a user's mouth. If the user wishes to refrain from ingesting any fluid **14** at all, the user may not push the first member **20** upward. If the user wishes to ingest the fluid **14**, the user may push the first member **20** upward quickly, thereby shooting the fluid from the device. Alternatively, the user may push the first member **20** upward slowly, thereby drizzling the fluid over the frozen confection. As such, the device **10** allows the user to simultaneously enjoy the frozen confection **12** and the fluid **14**.

The first, second, and third members **20**, **30**, **40**, are preferably formed of a material that is sufficiently durable to allow for washing and reuse (e.g. food-grade polypropylene or other suitable food-grade plastic). Thus, the device **10** may be sold for single use or for multiple uses.

What is claimed is:

1. A device for molding a freezable substance and dispensing a stored fluid substance, the device comprising:
- a first member including:
  - a handle;
  - a plunger disposed at one end of the handle;
- a second member including:
  - a flange;
  - a container extending from the flange and receiving the plunger at a first end of the container, the container defining an inner volume to receive and store a fluid substance, and having an orifice disposed generally opposite of the first end of the container; and
- a third member including:
  - a hollow, generally tubular mold with an open end to receive a freezable substance and a closed end on an opposite side of the mold from the open end, the open end of the third member interacting with the flange of the second member; and
  - a shaft extending from the closed end of the mold toward the open end of the mold, the shaft interacting with the orifice of the second member,
  - wherein the open end of the third member interacts with the flange of the second member to collectively define a mold cavity for holding a freezable substance with the shaft extending through the mold cavity to the orifice, and wherein when the third member is removed from the second member, a lumen is formed from the orifice to an exterior of a frozen substance to permit passage of the fluid substance through the orifice, through the lumen, and to the exterior of the frozen substance.

2. The device according to claim **1**, wherein the shaft is integrally formed with the hollow tubular mold.

3. The device according to claim **1**, wherein the container is concentrically disposed relative to the third member when the third member interacts with the second member.

4. The device according to claim **1**, wherein the flange second member includes a circular ring extending radially outward from the flange to define an outer edge.

5. The device according to claim **4**, wherein the third member defines a shape that interacts with the outer edge to cooperatively engage the outer edge when the third member interacts with the second member.

6. The device according to claim **1**, wherein the container defines a volume of approximately 1 ml to approximately 25 ml.

7. The device according to claim **1**, wherein the shaft extends through the orifice and partially into the container when the device is assembled.

8. The device according to claim **2**, wherein the shaft extends through the orifice and partially into the container when the device is assembled.

9. A device for molding a freezable substance with at least one lumen in the frozen substance through which a fluid substance may pass, the device comprising:
- a first member including a handle and a plunger disposed at one end of the handle;
- a second member including:
  - a container defining an inner volume to receive a fluid substance, the container having a first end configured to receive the plunger and an orifice disposed apart from first end, and
  - a flange extending about the container; and

a third member including:

a hollow, generally tubular mold with an open end to receive a freezable substance and a closed end on an opposite side of the mold from the open end; and

a shaft extending from the closed end of the mold toward the open end of the mold, and at least partially into the orifice;

and wherein when the third member is removed from the second member, a lumen is formed from the orifice to an exterior of a frozen substance to permit passage of the fluid substance through the orifice, through the lumen, and to the exterior of frozen substance.

10. The device according to claim **9**, wherein the hollow, generally tubular mold is a flared cylinder wherein the closed end diameter is 65% to 95% of the open end diameter.

11. The device according to claim **9**, wherein the shaft is a solid shaft.

12. The device according to claim **9**, wherein the shaft is integrally formed with the hollow tubular mold.

13. The device according to claim **11**, wherein the solid shaft, the container, and the plunger are concentrically disposed along a common axis.

14. The device according to claim **4** additionally comprising an O-ring disposed between the flange of the second member and the open end of the third member.

15. The device according to claim **14**, wherein the O-ring is disposed on an upward-facing side surface of the circular ring.

16. The device according to claim **1** additionally comprising an O-ring disposed between the flange of the second member and the open end of the third member.

17. The device according to claim **9** additionally comprising an O-ring disposed between the flange of the second member and the open end of the third member.

18. The device according to claim **1**, wherein the container includes an outer surface having at least one ring that extends outwardly into the frozen substance.

19. The device according to claim **9**, wherein the container includes an outer surface having at least one ring that extends outwardly into the frozen substance.

20. The device according to claim **9**, wherein the orifice is disposed on an end of the container opposite of the first end.

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